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OCI No. 1567/63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
12 June 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Sicilian Regional Elections of 9 June

1. The results--not yet complete--of the 9 June regional assembly elections in Sicily will not assist premier-designate Moro's efforts to form a new center-left, Socialist-backed national government.

2. Some three million persons, or about one-tenth of the national voting population, were eligible to vote, but the turnout was unusually small. Many migrants to the mainland apparently did not bother to return to vote, and the Communists apparently made little effort to persuade their followers to do so. Despite this drop, the Christian Democrats registered a gain of 30,000 votes over their showing in the April national elections, representing an increase of some three percentage points over April to a total of more than 42 percent. The Communist vote rose less than one percent over its April vote in Sicily to a total of more than 24 percent. The Nenni Socialists dropped one percent, to less than 10. Social Democrats and Republicans, the other two members of the national government coalition, also lost; they now total a little over five percent. (See table)

3. The Christian Democrats stressed anti-Communism, which seems to have won back some votes lost to the Liberals in April, but failed to dent the Communists' support. Both Christian Democratic and Communist activists, many imported from the mainland, conducted an intensive door-to-door campaign. The Christian Democrats also stressed to strong effect, the contrast between the corruption and inefficiency of earlier Sicilian governments, with which the Communists were

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connected, and the progress made during the last two years of center-left government in Sicily. A principal factor in the Christian Democrats' success was the apparent return to the party of a group of former adherents, the Milazzo group.

4. At the national level, Moro will probably point to his party's gains in Sicily in a vindication of the center-left government formula under which Sicily has been governed for the past two years. However, the Christian Democrats' gains may increase the opposition of their right wing against getting together at the national level with the Socialists. At the same time, the Communist gains and Socialist losses in Sicily are likely to reinforce the unwillingness of the Socialist left wing to entertain such a rapprochement.

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SICILIAN ELECTIONS

PARTY	Regional, 1959			National, April 1963		Regional, June, 1963*	
	Votes	Percentage	Seats	Votes	Percent	Percentage	Seats
Christian Democrats	937,734	38.61	34	949,281	38.89	42.05	37
Communists	496,149	20.44	20	579,077	23.72	24.12	22
Milazzo's Defectors (former CD)	257,023	10.59	9	--	--	--	--
Nenni Socialists	237,708	9.78	11	267,351	10.95	9.92	11
Republicans and Social Democrats	52,583	2.16	1	106,679	4.37	5.21	2 3
Liberals	100,890	3.74	2	215,138	8.81	7.80	7
Monarchists	115,296	4.74	3	68,584	2.81	3.70	1
Neo-Fascists	183,788	7.56	9	177,713	7.28	7.20	7
Others	50,513	2.07	1	26,712	1.10	--	--
Total	2,429,220	100%	90	2,441,107	100%	100%	90

*Returns not complete.

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